



## NOAA Restoration Center

### Dutch Bill Creek Fish Ladder Renovation Project

#### Project Description

This project will improve hydraulic characteristics of the channelized reach of Dutch Bill Creek in order to restore fish passage to the upper reaches of the watershed. The project will increase the depth of water flow through the reach by installing caps to the weirs already present, by installing new weirs, and by excavating resting pools throughout the reach.

**Project Nickname** Dutch Bill Creek Fish Ladder (FAF-98)

**Location** , Sonoma County, CA, 95446 SWR

**Program** Community-based Restoration

**Congressional District** CA 6

**Lat, Long Coordinates** -122.98, 38.446

**Land Ownership** Private

**Implementation Start Date** 10-OCT-98

**Implementation End Date** 01-SEP-99

**River Basin** Russian

**HUC** 18010110

**Geographic Identifier** Russian River

**USGS Topo Quad** CAMP MEEKER

**Project Status** Implementation Complete

**Project Type** Restoration

**Project Status Description** project completed, still currently successful, coho seen in 2002 for the first time since 1954 above the fish ladder

**Landmark** Bohemian Highway

**Number of Volunteers** 4

**Volunteer Hours** 20

**Volunteer Description**

**Proposed Project?** **Project Closed?** Y **FY Completed** 1999

#### Habitat Information

Type	Acres Created	Acres Re-established	Acres Rehabilitated	Acres Enhanced	Acres Protected	Stream Miles	# Plants/Animals
stream/river channel						3	

#### Species Information

Commonname	Genus	Species	Population Name	NMFS Status	Species Type
Salmon, chinook	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>tshawytscha</i>	California Coastal	Threatened	animal
Salmon, coho	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>kisutch</i>	Southern Oregon-Northern Californ	Threatened	animal
Trout, steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus</i>	<i>mykiss</i>	Northern California	Candidate	animal

#### Partners

Trout Unlimited
California Department of Fish and Game
Sonoma County Public Works
Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group

#### Restoration Techniques

fish ladder/fishway installation
stream channel or stream pool construction
riparian planting
weir construction

#### Contacts

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NOAA

#### NOAA Involvement

project design
technical assistance/expertise
source of funding

#### Monitoring Information

Characteristic	Type
Finfish utilization	Functional

#### Additional Info

**Funding Information**

<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	<b>FY Awarded</b>	<b>NOAA Contribution</b>	<b>Partnership Contribution</b>	<b>Total Partnership Contribution</b>
Fish America Foundation	1998	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000

**Other Non-Federal \$**  **Other Federal \$**  **Total Project Cost**

**Funding Recipient** Trout Unlimited

**Funding Comments****Project Abstract**

Dutch Bill Creek, which supports a native run of steelhead and coho, is a direct tributary to Californias Russian River, one of the major rivers of Californias north coast. The larger Russian River watershed was once one of the worlds finest steelhead rainbow trout sport fisheries; currently, it supports threatened populations of wild coho and steelhead, and chinook salmon.

Before the implementation of this project, fish passage in Dutch Bill Creek was impaired. As part of a highway project in the 1930s, a retaining wall was built along the creek. The creek bottom was covered with an apron of concrete to avoid undermining of the retaining wall, and weirs were added to dissipate energy and provide fish passage.

Although several repairs had been made to the weirs, including replacing weirs that had been blown out with high water flows, conditions were such that fish passage was severely limited during migration seasons, and the California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) had targeted this reach as an area of concern. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and FishAmerica Foundation involved local volunteers from Trout Unlimited in the restoration project, and also partnered with CDFG and citizens who live in the Dutch Bill Creek area. National Marine Fisheries Service engineers conducted site visits to refine the alternatives for restoration and develop a final renovation plan for a total project cost estimated at \$25,000.

The FishAmerica Foudation and NOAA Restoration Center awarded the North Coast Chapter of Trout Unlimited \$2,500 to complete modifications to the existing weirs along ductch bill creek to provide better adult and juvenile salmonid passage. Since the project was completed, coho salmon were oobserved for the first time since 1954 above the ladder.